

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 T-03 DPW-01 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-12 INRE-00

EB-11 RSR-01 /151 W

----- 100151

O R 201152 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3141

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL FRANCE

USIA

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

CDRUSMACV

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 7/13 AF

CDR 7 TH RRFs RAMASUN THAI

CRD 7 ACCS KORAT

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECRP NKP

CHSPECACTS BANGKOK

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56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

CDR JCRC NKP
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2048

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 20

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; MACV FOR COMMAND CENTER AND J3 08;
7/13 AF, 432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2
AND PAO.

REF: VIENTIANE 2016

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - LEVEL OF FIGHTING REMAINED
VERY LOW IN NORTH LAOS DURING PERIOD 18-19 MARCH, BUT
FOUR MAJOR INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN SOUTH LAOS SOUTHEAST OF
THAKHEK, NORTH OF DONG HENE AND NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE, WHERE
" LINES" HAVE YET TO BE STABILIZED. THERE WERE ONLY SEVEN
SCATTERED MINOR INCIDENTS. RLAF FLEW 20 T-28 SORTIES ON
19 MARCH, ALL IN AREAS OF FIGHTING OR AGAINST ACTIVE ENEMY
WEAPONS POSITIONS. ONLY REPORTED ARTILLERY EXPENDITURE ON
17 MARCH WAS 191 ROUNDS SOUTH OF THAKHEK (SEE REFTE).

POLITICAL - RLG GAINS INITIATIVE IN 23 RD SESSION " TUESDAY"
TALKS BY PRESENTATION OF DRAFT PROTOCOLS. SOUVANNA TELLS
DEPUTIES HE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MEET MARCH 23
DEADLINE FOR FORMATION OF NEW PGNU. PRIME MINISTER, ON
MARCH 15, SENT ANOTHER MESSAGE TO PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG
REQUESTING RETURN OF LPF ADVISOR PHOUMI VONGVICHIT.
SOVIET AN-2 AIRCRAFT FLEW TO SAM NEUA MARCH 20. US, UK
AND FRANCE SIGN 1973 FEOF AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. SECTION I- OBSERVANCE OF CEASE FIRE

A. MR I: ACTION WAS VERY LIGHT. ONLY INCIDENTS
REPORTED WERE MINOR ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE ON POSITON
SOUTHEAST OF LUANG PRABANG ON 18 AND 19 MARCH (NO
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CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW TWELVE T-28 SORTIES ON 19 MARCH
ALL AGAINST SUSPECTED ENEMY FIRING POSITIONS (RESULTS
UNKNOWN).

B. MR II: MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT LOW
LEVEL WITH ONE ENEMY- INITIATED MINOR CLASH IN AREA
NORTHWEST OF MUONG SOUI (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW
NO SORTIES.

C. MR III: SHARP ACTION CONTINUED SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK AND NORTH OF DONG HENE, WITH THREE MAJOR AND THREE MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED. ESTIMATED TWO ENEMY COMPANIES, SUPPORTED BY 200 ROUNDS MORTAR FIRE, ATTACKED POSITION 20 KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK NEAR ROUTE 13 (VE 893058) NIGHT 18 MARCH (1645 Z). ENEMY WITHDREW WITH ESTIMATED FIVE KIA AND 15 WIA, WHILE FRIENDS SUFFERED NINE WIA. THIS MAJOR INCIDENT WAS PRECEDED ON 18 MARCH BY MINOR CLASH 22 KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK (ESTIMATED "MANY" ENEMY CASUALTIES). AND FOLLOWED ON 19 MARCH BY MINOR CLASH 28 KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK (ESTIMATED TWO ENEMY CASUALTIES). MIDDAY 19 MARCH (0600 Z), ESTIMATED TWO ENEMY COMPANIES, SUPPORTED BY 50 ROUNDS MORTAR FIRE, ATTACKED POSITION 24 KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK (VE 996085). ENEMY WITHDREW WITH UNKNOWN CASUALTIES; FRIENDS LOST ONE KIA AND FOUR WIA AND SUBSEQUENTLY RELOCATED SEVERAL KMS WEST. APPROX TEN KM NORTH OF DONG HENE (WD 314567), FRIENDS WITHSTOOD TWO- COMPANY ATTACK AFTERNOON 18 MARCH (0635 Z), BUT LOST TWO KIA, TWO WIA. ESTIMATED ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE THREE KIA AND 14 WIA. LATER SAME DAY, MINOR SHELLING OCCURRED 12 KM NORTHEAST OF DONG HENE (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW THREE T-28 SORTIES ON 19 MARCH AND THREE AC-47 SORTIES PREVIOUS NIGHT, ALL IN SUPPORT OF THAKHEK AND DONG HENE TROOPS- IN- CONTACT SITUATIONS (ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION).

D. MR IV: MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURRED APPROX 34 KM NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE WHEN FRIENDS, WHO WERE DRIVEN FROM VILLAGE AT XC 150420 ON 17 MARCH AND RETURNED THERE ON 18 MARCH, WERE ATTACKED BY ESTIMATED TWO ENEMY COMPANIES, SUPPORTED BY 82 ROUNDS MORTAR FIRE, EARLY MORNING 19 MARCH (182115 Z) AND FORCED TO WITHDRAW ONCE AGAIN (CASUALTIES CONFIDENTIAL

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UNKNOWN). ONLY OTHER GROUND ACTION WAS MINOR CLASH APPROX FIVE KM SOUTHWEST OF PAKSONG ON 18 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW FIVE T-28 SORTIES ON 19 MARCH AND ONE AC-47 SORTIE PREVIOUS NIGHT, ALL IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT IN FOREGOING MAJOR INCIDENT.

E. MR V: NO GROUND ACTION REPORTED. NO AIR ACTION REPORTED, EXCEPT THAT LAO FAC HARASSED ENEMY TROOPS APPROX 45 KM EAST OF PAKSANE BY FIRING MARKING ROCKETS. PATROL FOUND ENEMY CACHE CONTAINING 4,800 ROUNDS RIFLE AMMO EIGHT KM NORTHEAST OF SALA PHOU KHOUN JUNCTION.

F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED TEN ADDITIONAL ENEMY VIOLATIONS, BRINGING TOTAL TO 266 AS OF MORNING 17 MARCH. OUR COUNT OF GROUND ACTIONS INITIATED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWS 57 MAJOR

AND 351 MINOR INNIDENTS THROUGH 16 MARCH.

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. AT THE 23 RD SESSION OF " TUESDAY TALKS", MARCH 20, RLG PRESENTED DRAFT MILITARY AND POLITICAL PROTOCOLS TO LPF DELEGATION, WHICH REJECTED THEM ON GROUNDS THAT PROTOCOLS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN RESEARCH SUB- COMMITTEE MEETINGS, NOT IN FULL DELEGATION FORUM. DURING MEETING, LPF CHARGED RLG WITH REFUSAL TO EXPLORE IN DEPTH MILITARY QUESTIONS AND WITH OTHER DELAYS. AFTER MEETING, LPF DEL STATED THAT SPECIAL ADVISER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT WOULD NOT RETURN TO VIENTIANE UNTIL RESEARCH SUB- COMMITTEES MADE PROGRESS. MEETINGS OF BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY RESEARCH GROUPS ARE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 21. (COMMENT: IN HAVING DRAFT PROTOCOLS READY FOR DISCUSSIONS, RLG HAS CLEARLY GAINED THE INITIATIVE FROM THE COMMUNIST SIDE.)

B. XAT LAO REPORTED THAT ON MARCH 19 SOUVANNA MET WITH GROUP OF FIVE DEPUTIES AND SAID HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MEET THE MARCH 23 DEADLINE FOR FORMATION OF THE NEW PGNU AND THAT HE HAD SO INFORMED SOUPHANOUVONG. SOUVANNA RECONFIRMED FACT THAT HE WOULD REQUEST ASSEMBLY APPROVAL FOR RLG MINISTERS IN NEW GOVERNMENT; BUT, AS IN 1962, LPF MINISTERS WOULD NOT FOLLOW THAT PROCEDURE. HE ADDED THAT IF GOVERNMENT FORMED DURING PARLIAMENTARY RECESS PERIOD, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE WOULD BE ABLE TO REQUEST SPECIAL SESSION SO THAT ASSEMBLY COULD GRANT ITS APPROVAL.

C. PRIME MINISTER, ON MARCH 15, SENT ANOTHER MIEEAGE TO PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG REQUESTING THE RETURN TO VIENTIANE OF LPF PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE PHOUMI VONGVICHIT. SOUVANNA ADDED THAT, IF SOUPHANOUVONG WOULD AGREE TO MEET HIM IN LUANG PRABANGPN PENDING PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED MORE EASILY.

D. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIET ANTONOV-2 AIRCRAFT DEPARTED VIENTIANE FOR SAM NEUA TODAY AND IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TOMORROW, MARCH 21.

E. IN CEREMONY ON MARCH 20, RLG, US, UK AND FRANCE SIGNED 1973 ECONOMIC STABILIZATION (FEOF) AGREEMENT FOR LAOS. GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN, WHICH HAVE NOT COMPLETED INTERNAL AUTHORIZING PROCEDURES, ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN LATER. GODLEY

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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30 JUN 2005

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NEW DELHI
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UDORN
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USIA A
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CINCPAC
CINCUSARPAC HAWAII CDRUSMACV
COMUSMACTHAI
DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI CDR USSAG NKP
DEPCDR AFF
CDR TH RRFS RAMASUN THAI
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DODS PECREP BANGKOK
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